Prices of essential medicines

2809. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to delicence more medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision to phase out the price control; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to check prices of essential medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Industrial licensing for all bulk drugs cleared by Drug Controller General (India), all their intermediates and formulations has been abolished except in the cases of:—

(i) bulk drugs produced by the use of recombinant DNA technology,

(ii) bulk drugs requiring *in-vivo* use of nucleic acids as the active principles, and

(iii) specific cell/tissue targeted formulations.

(c) and (d) Government have recently announced the "Pharmaceutical Policy 2002". The main objectives of this Policy are, *inter-alia*, ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality, essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production. The Policy provides for identifying the drugs for price regulation out of the basket of the items appearing in the National Essential Drug List and those considered important from the point of view of their use in various Health Programmes, in emergency care etc. There would be monitoring of price movement in other cases.